

CLAIMS:

1. A method of supplying encoded content data, the method comprising enabling to control a circuit to operate in a specific one of multiple operational modes:
 - a first mode to decode a base layer of the content data using a first decoding technique and to decode an enhancement layer of the content data using a second decoding technique different from the first; and
 - a second mode to decode the content data using the second technique.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the enabling to control comprises providing control data specifying the specific operational mode.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the enabling to control comprises supplying the content data encoded using the second technique.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first technique relates to a conventional standard and the second technique relates to an emerging standard.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the second technique uses H.264 decoding.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the content information is supplied as data streamed over a network.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the content information is supplied as data recorded on a physical carrier.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first technique enables to render the content information with a first resolution, and wherein the second technique enables to render the content information with a second resolution higher than the first resolution.

9. An electronic device comprising a decoder for decoding encoded data representative of content information, wherein:
- the decoder has a first operational mode and a second operational mode;
 - in the first mode the decoder is operative to decode a base layer of the data
- 5 using a first decoding technique, and to decode an enhancement layer of the data using a second decoding technique different from the first;
- in the second mode the decoder is operative to decode the data using the second technique; and
 - the decoder is controllable to operate in either the first or the second mode.
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10. The device of claim 9, wherein the decoder has a control input for receipt of control data to select the first or second operational mode.
11. The device of claim 9, wherein the decoder operates in the second mode in the
- 15 absence of the data whose coding is compliant with the first technique.
12. The device of claim 9, wherein the first technique relates to a conventional coding standard and the second technique relates to an emerging standard.
- 20 13. The device of claim 9, comprising a receiver for receiving the encoded data via a data network.
14. The device of claim 9, comprising a reading component for reading the encoded data from a physical data carrier.
- 25 15. The device of claim 9, comprising a rendering apparatus for rendering the decoded data.
16. The device of claim 9, wherein the first technique enables to render the content
- 30 information with a first resolution, and wherein the second technique enables to render the content information with a second resolution higher than the first resolution.
17. Software for implementing a decoder for decoding encoded data representative of content information, wherein:

- the decoder has a first operational mode and a second operational mode;
 - in the first mode the decoder is operative to decode a base layer of the data using a first decoding technique, and to decode an enhancement layer of the data using a second decoding technique different from the first;
 - 5 - in the second mode the decoder is operative to decode the data using the second technique; and
 - the decoder is controllable to operate in either the first or the second mode.
18. The software of claim 17, wherein the first technique relates to a conventional
10 standard and the second technique relates to an emerging standard.
19. The software of claim 18, wherein the second technique uses H.264 decoding.
20. A physical record carrier with data representative of content information,
15 wherein:
- the data comprises the content information encoded in a base layer using a first encoding technique and an enhancement layer using a second encoding technique different from the first; and
 - the data comprises the content information encoded in its entirety using the
20 second technique.
21. The carrier of claim 20, wherein the first encoding technique is based on a conventional standard and the second encoding technique is based on an emerging standard.
- 25 22. The carrier of claim 21, wherein the conventional standard is MPEG-2, and the emerging standard is H.264.
23. The carrier of claim 20, comprising an optical disk.